TRANSLATOR'S NOTES

Honorifics

Honorifics are the Japanese equivalent of the English titles "Mr.," "Mrs.," "Miss," etc. They are taken very seriously in Japan. Complicating matters is that the correct honorific to use is dependent on the relationship between the people involved. For example, Ezaki addresses Osen as Osen-san, which is polite, Yasuda uses the informal Osen-chan because he's older than her, while Chinpindo doesn't bother to use an honorific at all, likely because he knew her as a child.

Names

The Japanese place family name first, personal name last. A point of trivia: the Japanese don't have middle names.

Edo and Momoyama periods

In the late 1500s warlords struggled for control of Japan. By 1582 Oda Nobunaga had conquered most of Japan, when a disaffected retainer, Akechi Mitsuhide, killed him in a coup. Toyotomi Hideyoshi later defeated Mitsuhide at the Battle of Yamazaki, succeeding Nobunaga. The resulting peace is called the Momoyama period. When Hideyoshi died, Tokugawa Ieyasu won the resulting power struggle around 1600. This marked the beginning of the Edo period, a two-hundred-fifty-year-long period of relative peace and prosperity.

Octopus

Totally delicious. I can't eat enough of it.

Enjoy,
BOKE

Hmm ...
So yer family runs an inn?
An "inn"?
Nah, 's more like a B&B.
"If you're going to apprentice somewhere..
But it'll fall to me to run it someday.
...so an associate of Dad's gave me an introduction to Ishoan
"...you'd better go for the real thing," he said.

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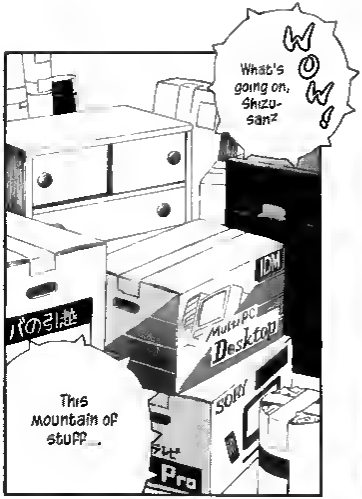
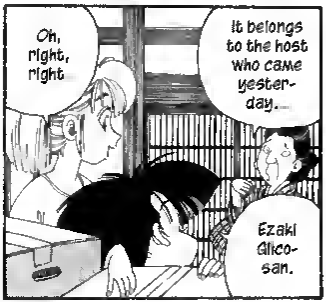
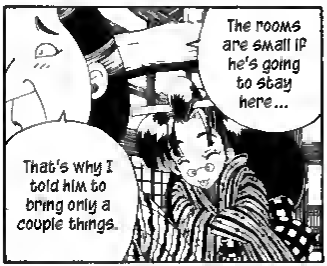
Mornin'.
That's so like you...
For our head chef to be first to work.
Good morning.
What's the occasion? You are up early...
And what's more, I'M sober!

Are you feeling unwell?
We'll be firing up the kiln soon.
So I'm purifyin' myself... in my own fashion, of course.
Starting today, li'l ol' me will be drinking tea!
Do we have any chilled?
Yeah, in the refrigerator.
Got it. Got it.
Nnnn
It'll be so good cold...
Ah!


WOW!
What's going on, Shizu-san?
This mountain of stuff...
IDM
Desktop
SONY
Pro


Oh, right, right
It belongs to the host who came yesterday...
Ezaki Akico-san.


The rooms are small if he's going to stay here...
That's why I told him to bring only a couple things.

All right, that's the last of it!
Thank you!
ガヤ
cattle
ガヤ
cattle

Today Shizu-san gets the
Kiss!♡
Ah, I wanted that!
You skipped my turn!

When's it going to be my turnz
Oooh..z
Should we open it and peekz
Stop it! You've got bad habits
Glico-san's luggagez

R-Right!
I'll be right down!
Ezaki-saaan!
Your luggage arrived!
Ummm...
The bookcase there... Computer over there...
The TV and entertainment center...
Mmm, yep yep. Ok, Ok.
Want some help, newbie?
Er, no, Tome-sama.
I can't ask you that, Tome-san...
Oh, Tome-san's fine. Just relax.
Don't get uptight, I'll help out.
R-Really?

Huh ...?
Hello? Oh, Ryoko-chan.
Good morning!
Thanks, but I was able to get up by myself.
Don't worry, everyone's really nice.
Yeah, I'll call later. Bye!
RRRR
Tome-san.
Ok, if you could help out ..
LOOP
It's Tome-sama, got it?!
It's yer luggage.
You carry it, asshole.

Note: Ezaki is holding the equivalent of about $35 US. To roughly convert yen into US dollars, simply divide the yen figure by 100

Don't do this to me.
I'm not some sort of junk dealer, see?
Gettin' rid of that kinda stuff... Every Single Time, I keep telling you I'm done doing this

Don't do this to me...
This is Chimpindo-san, an antique dealer.
Let me introduce you, Gico-san.
Um..
I patronize his shop.
I'm not grasping the situation here.
I sold it! ♡
All your stuff, Gico-san!
Oh...
Without consulting me, the owner?!
Yup.
You sold it?

But you see, it doesn't fit...
...with my style.
Wha...
Give it up, boy...
...you didn't have anything of worth, anyway.
...
Tch...
Hmm?
What're you sayin'...?

Here you go, Gico-san...
...if you would care to have it.
...
It'll be hard to get along..
...if you don't at least have a nice bowl.

Well then, Osen.
Yeh.
Sorry to trouble you!
...my Pocket Monster Stadium
My computer, my MiniDisc player...
Turned into this
It's 'bout time I opened my shop.
Well now
A rice bowl...?
You made out, boy.

"Made out"?
Oh, that's right. Chinpindo-san said...
...as a goodwill gesture between men, you could keep these.

Hey now.
Don't get down about it, Ezaki-san.
Here, Ezaki-san, tea.
Oh, thank you.
But what was his name?
That talking antiques guy?
Nah...
Forget it...
sniff
Everybody's had somethin' similar done to 'im, see?
Thas 'bout right.
It's a way to purify yourself, Osen-san style.
You mean the porn?
What th' hell ya talkin' 'bout?

Chinpindo.
Yeah, right! That Chinpindo guy goes around callin' people's stuff junk, and all!
That really adds insult to injury.
Oh, like saying, "You didn't have anything of worth, anyway"?
Exactly!
Chinpindo is a famous connoisseur.
Yeh. His shop's nothin' ta look at...
...but he's an expert when it comes to ceramics.
All the antique dealers 'n the area, the museums 'n professors all go to the old guy...
...When they have questions 'bout authenticity
They say he never makes a mistake 'bout the stuff he looks at.

What happened, Teruko-san?
We got felt up! He grabbed our butts!
slide
Someone do something about Chinpindo, that lech!
Crap!
Aw, geez!
Awwww, that Chinpindo-san ..
.. squeezed my rump!
So you caught his eye, see?
Could be a good thing, eh? He's got one o' th' finest eyes for quality.
Then, what? We're national treasures?
Oh, put that way ..

The Room of the Wind! Party of three!
Party of three in the Room of the Wind!
Order up for the Room of the Moon!
I'm waitin', y'know!
Hey, how long ya gonna take washin' that gobo?
Why does the host have to do this?
This sucks.
I'm just about done!
Alright!

Yo!
Everyone's going full steam ahead!
Sei-san, what's good today?
Octopus. ♡
Well, let's see...
The eggplant, and...
...Maybe the octopus from the Seto Sea?
Giiii mmee!
Giiii mmee!
Evening, Sei-san, and hey, Osen-chan too!
Can I bother you for a sec?

May I see it for a moment?
Hmm. An imari map-pattern dish?
Heh heh heh. I guess I wanted to brag a bit.
...Mashata Yakuuuda (...Master Yasuda.)
Guuhd touh seeeya... (Good to see you...)
...but can you fill this with goodies for me?
Sorry to bother you when you're busy...
...the manager of the place I get parts from is also into this...
...and he introduced me to an old art dealer acquaintance of his.
You must have paid a pretty penny for it
Just between you and me...
We get that a lot here.
Bringing his own dish?
That man has been into it for the last couple of years. He buys something nice and gets like that.

I'll introduce you to him next time, Osen-chan!
The treasure cave...
He's a totally straightforward guy, and said that he'll only charge friends what it costs him.
I've totally stumbled across a treasure cave!

Suddenly bringing me this heap of crap
Don't do this to me.
"Cra...
"Crap" you say?

An amateur's mistake.
Th-This! This koshi-gataki vase!
This came with full documentation and cost more than 600,000 yen!
You didn't even really look at them!
You're talking crazy!
. . it would run about 10 million yen.
If that were genuine. . .
You don't mean . .
So. . So then . .
All of this. . ?
Ten mil . . ?!

Yasuda-san!
Woa!
Thud!
They're all fakes.
Did you hear that, Osen-chan?
What am I gonna do? That guy fooled me.
The ceramics are all modern
They've been aged with chemicals. They're fakes.
To put it bluntly, you've been scammed
I thought it was strange...
Everything I wanted would just appear one after the other...
...springing endlessly out of a magic bag.

I thought if I bought this stuff now...
...I would be able to sell it later for three times what I had paid.
With the bad economy, it was supposed to be like earning interest..

I cashed in my retirement.
I paid 3 million yen for all of this.

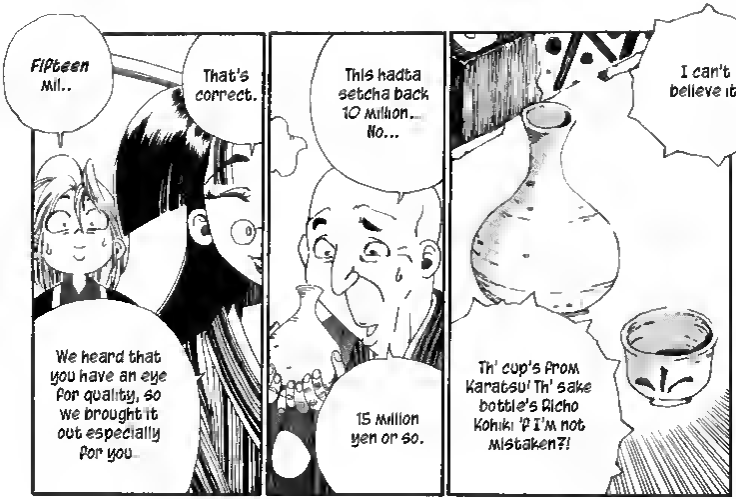
Yasuda-san, let's go to the police! The police!
You can get that art dealer locked up!
Amateurs latch onto fads.
That's what happens when you get so caught up in things
I worked in a factory for a pittance of a salary and without even the smallest hobby.
I thought I had finally found something I could enjoy.

Don't go spoutin' nonsense, boy.
There are more fakes than genuine articles in this trade.
When dealing in antiques, half is sellin', half buyin'.
Your cute little ideals won't get you far.
If you know what you're doin', you won't get burned by junk.
Just chalk it up as an expensive learning experience.
Th...
That's...
tug

Don't do this to me...

Some-
time
later
Th' rooms
are nice too.
Yup, yup.
Whatta nice
building. It's
got style!
Chirp
Chirp
Chirp
Chirp
Classy.
Yup.

Ha ha ha ha!
It's because you've given me so much to think about, Nakano-san
I don't think it can get any better as an art dealer than this.
To be invited ta sucha elegant place 'n be served dinner on th' dishes I sold ya is really somethin'.
It's very kind of you to say
Please excuse me.
I've brought the sake
This is the appetizer. Please
The eggplant and beans are in a sesame sauce.
The leg of octopus should be eaten by hand with the onion soy sauce...
in one bite.
Oh my!


Fifteen Mil..
That's correct.
We heard that you have an eye for quality, so we brought it out especially for you.
This hadta setcha back 10 Million.. No...
15 million yen or so.
I can't believe it!
Th' cup's from Karatsu! Th' sake bottle's Ofuke Kohiki! If I'm not Mistaken?!

So there are pieces like this in the world after all.
You haveta go back to th' Edo, naw, the Momoyama period ta get quality like this!
And then there's an Oribe square bowl and a Bizen bowl. I've never laid eyes on these before.

[1] The Edo period started about 1600. The Momoyama period was just before that.

Mmmm...
'n ta top it off, the food's delicious!
The eggplant really comes alive with this sauce!
And the octopus' texture is just right to th' tooth!
And this wonderfully rustic way to eat is a first!
At this rate I can't wait to see what's going to come next...
...on Yasuda-san's dishes!
Well now, let's not wait then.
Sei-saaan.
Yes.
Thank you for waiting.
SLIDE!

ER
ER

[1] Yuba is similar to tofu
[2] Imari, Raoejin, Gosu and Koshi goraki are all famous pottery-making areas
In the red-patterned Gosu, prawns wrapped in yuba[1].
On the Rosojin plate, roasted eel and gobo root rolls.
On the Imari map-pattern platter, pike conger and abalone sushi.
The Koshigaraki[2] vase has been arranged with mountain hydrangeas.
Please enjoy...
...to your heart's content.
Each represents the highest art of our restaurant.
It's really true that the dishes dress up th' meal.
Ya really are spoilin' me with th' dishes and th' meal.

But yeaah, this vase is really set off by th' flowers.
I can't put it in words, but it has a air of quiet refinement.
The real thing..
...really is special after all.
You're too kind.

snatch!
This 's crazy!
Thi...
!?
grrr!
Whatever is the matterz
Wh... Wh-wh-what th' hell's goin' onz!
Erk...
Are you dis-pleased by Isho-an's disheSz
Is this some sorta magicz

SLAM
Who?
Well!
You truly do have an eye for quality as they say.
Who came up with this crazy plan?
And you saw through it quickly!
SIGH

Chi...
It was a real pain...
Chinpindo!
...to collect all of those.

In my restau-rant...
...I only use the real thing.

Hurry up and return Yasude-san's money for all those bekes!
OK! The jig is up, you villain!
...
Well now ...
To have these laid before me, I can't say anything in response.
I've got to hand it to you, Chinpindo.
Sip!Tch
But...

The cost was 3 million yen, so I'll pay 600,000.
If that's fine with you then...
I'll buy back at 20%
Pshaw!
You mean all th' "junk" that made ya so happy to obtain?
Only twenty?
Twe... Twenty?!
After sellin' me all that junk!
You can't mean that!
I can't check ta see if every stupid amateur can take care of himself!
I can't do business worryin' 'bout whether you're a knowledgeable buyer or not!

I've lived by that ruthless rule for 30 years!
I won't compromise even if I'm dealin' with someone like Chinpindo!
BAM
In this business, buyin' and sellin' is a battle to th' death!
If you've got no eye, you lose!
Oh my!
Chinpindo-sen...
Isn't there anything you can do?!
Don't do this to me...
When you say that, you..
If your customer pisses on yer leg...
...you do what it takes ta get even

How about it? All this for the return of his money?
Er, Nakano-san, was it?
I'm a kind of antique dealer, too.
Sorry, boy.
For these dishes...
...there are rich folks who will pay whatever I want!
I knew I could count on you, Chinpindo-sen!
I was waiting for you to say that!
It wasn't easy to collect all of this, but...
I'm really makin' out with these.
Especially for th' Bizen and Oribe I laid eyes on first.
It's amazin' you were able to dig these up.

Osen
That's what he said.
What are ya talkin' about? You of all people?
Are they that good?
..he's free to take those.
As far as I'M concerned..
Even I would be willin' to fork out money for these
Well, see...
Little girls who don't know anything should just stay quiet.
What this?
Those aren't mine.
I'M speaking with Chinpindo-san here.

I made them.
The two you're holding.

Ha.. Ha ha ha...
Stop with th' bad jokes, really.
You're not Toyo or Toyozo[1] or anything.
Sen
There's no way something like this could be made nowadays.

[1] Toyo and Toyozo were famous potters

Handa Sen
The signature of Isho-an's mistress.
She does imitate the old styles ..
.. but the shapes and patterns are Osen's originals.
She works hard to please her customers

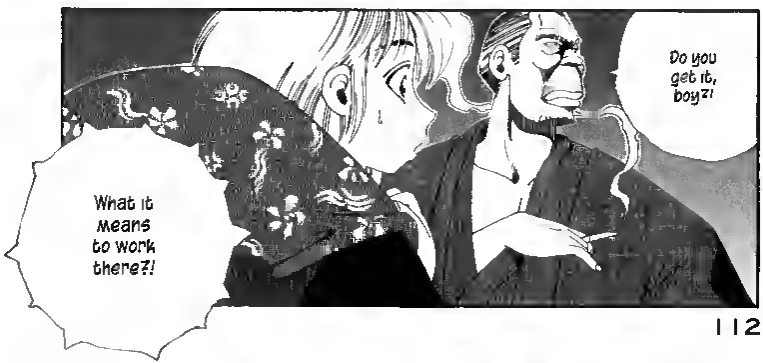
Yoshi
For those who only have eyes to fool others...
...it can't be helped if you mistake those for Edo- or Momoyama-era masterworks.
YES!
Well now...
...today's bill.

Total comes to 30 million yen!
We'll include them for free.
These are all of our customers' purchases from you
Don't you dare utter a word of complaint!

Wow.
That really surprised me.

You have more than ten year's worth of salary on your back.
Don't trip, boy
I had no idea that almost all of Isho-an's dishes were made by Osen-san.
And that they are good enough to be confused with Momoyama-era works
It's not just the dishes.

The whole of Isho-an can be considered Osen's work.
Quality that can't be spoiled by money or desire


Do you get it, boy?!
What it means to work there?!

I didn't understand it when he first told me...
ドクン
ドクン
ドクン
...but I think I understand just a bit now...
Those words of my dad's associate...

CHAPTER 2 THE EYE TO SEE QUALITY, THE HAND TO MAKE IT— AND THE BOWL THAT RESULTED /END